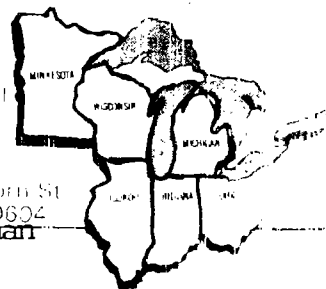


EPA Environmental NEWS RELEASE

United States
Environmental
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Agency
Region V
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For Immediate Release: October 7, 1988

No: 88-279

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EPA SIGNS CONSENT DECREE FOR WAUKEGAN HARBOR; PUBLIC MEETING OCTOBER 18

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 today announced a major agreement that will require the Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC) to clean up PCB-contamination from Waukegan Harbor and OMC property.

In making the announcement, EPA Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus said: "After many years of tough negotiation, I am pleased to announce the settlement of this longstanding environmental problem. We at U.S. EPA have tirelessly pursued a settlement that will protect human health and the environment. We will vigorously enforce its provisions and will not rest until Waukegan Harbor is cleaned. The message to polluters and would-be polluters is clear: Time is not on your side."

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed the consent decree, which contains the agreement, on behalf of U.S. EPA in the Federal District Court, Northern District of Illinois. Parties to the agreement are: U.S. EPA, DOJ, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Attorney General, and OMC.

U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting October 18 to explain the settlement and to seek public comments. The 7 p.m. meeting will be held at the Waukegan Ramada Inn, East Room, 200 Green Bay Rd., Waukegan, IL.

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The consent decree requires OMC to:

1. remove contaminated sediment from slip 3, which is the most heavily polluted area, and
2. remove less contaminated sediments from the upper harbor and place them in slip 3.

To accomplish this, OMC will permanently isolate slip 3 with an all - encompassing wall, construct a PCB thermal treatment system, place the treated sediment in two new enclosures on its property, and build a new slip on the east side of the upper harbor for Larsen Marine, which now uses slip 3.

OMC has established a trust fund of about \$20 million to ensure completion of the work, which U.S. EPA will supervise. Cleanup is expected to be completed by 1992.

This settlement differs from a 1984 record of decision, in which U.S. EPA proposed to dredge materials from slip 3, dewater materials in on-site lagoons, and place the dredged materials into on-site containment cells.

"I believe this new approach will protect public health and the environment as well as the 1984 plan," said Adamkus. "And, because the work will be done by OMC, it will save us money for other Superfund sites. The new approach also takes advantage of treatment processes not available a few years ago." -

OMC operates a recreational marine products manufacturing plant in Waukegan. From about 1961 to 1972, it used in die casting a hydraulic fluid, which contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's). Some of the fluid reached the floor drains and moved through the drainage system into Waukegan Harbor and onto the company's property.

In 1984, U.S. EPA was ready to clean up the site, but in 1985 was denied access by OMC. In 1986, Superfund was amended which provided additional access authority for U.S. EPA. That year U.S. EPA and OMC ended the access litigation and negotiated this settlement.

Because this settlement differs from the 1984 proposal, U.S. EPA has prepared a document explaining the differences and is now seeking comments on it. Comments are also being sought on the consent decree before it is entered in court. The two comments periods run from October 12 to November 14, 1988.

Comments on both documents may be sent to:

John Perrecone, 5PA-14
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA Region 5
230 South Dearborn St.
Chicago, IL 60604

Copies of the 1984 record of decision, the consent decree and the explanatory document may be reviewed at:

Waukegan Public Library
128 N. County St.
Waukegan, IL

Waukegan City Hall
106 N. Utica St.
Waukegan, IL

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Fact sheet on clean up measures and chronology is attached

UNCLAS 7.3
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EPA SIGNS CONSENT DECREE FOR WAUKEGAN HARBOR AND OMC SITES; PUBLIC MEETING
OCTOBER 18

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency today announced the signing of a consent decree with the Outboard Marine Corp. (OMC) of Waukegan, IL, regarding the cleanup of PCB-contaminated materials from Waukegan Harbor and OMC property.

In making the announcement, EPA Regional Administrator Valdas V. Adamkus said: "It is with great pleasure that I announce the settlement of this long-standing environmental problem. Through the efforts of the Government and OMC, we were able to forge a permanent solution that will treat and dispose of the wastes in an environmentally sound manner."

The consent decree was filed today in the Northern District of Illinois by the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of the U.S. EPA.

U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting October 18 to explain the settlement and to seek public comments. The 7 p.m. meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, East Room, 200 Green Bay Road, Waukegan.

The consent decree requires OMC to:

1. construct a new slip on the east side of Upper Waukegan Harbor and relocate Larsen Marine on it;
2. permanently isolate slip 3 by constructing a secure sheet-pile cutoff wall (Once the slip is isolated, a slurry wall and a permanent containment cell will be built;

-more-

3. dredge the most-contaminated sediments from slip 3 and treat them onsite;
4. dredge materials from the upper harbor and place them in slip 3;
5. treat contaminated soils and sediments by a thermal extraction process, thus reducing the ~~in~~ toxicity; and *Volatile*
6. construct two additional containment cells on the north portion of OMC's property and place treated materials in them; and
7. ~~ship~~ ^{transport} the extracted liquid PCB's to an EPA approved facility.

OMC has established a trust fund of about \$20 million to ensure completion of the work, which will be supervised by U.S. EPA and is expected to be completed by 1992.

This settlement differs from the 1984 record of decision, in which U.S. EPA proposed to dredge materials from slip 3, dewater materials in on-site lagoons, and place the dredged materials into on-site containment cells.

U.S. EPA feels this new approach will equally protect public health and the environment and, because it will be carried out by OMC, it will also conserve Superfund resources.

OMC operates a recreational marine products manufacturing plant in Waukegan, IL. From about 1961 to 1972, it used a hydraulic fluid, which contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's), in their die casting works. Some of the fluid reached the floor drains and moved through the drainage system into Waukegan Harbor and onto the company's property.

elig In 1978, U.S. EPA filed suit against OMC to cleanup PCB's in the harbor and on its property. In 1982, the harbor and OMC's property were placed on the first National Priorities List for hazardous waste sites, thus making them ~~eligible~~ ^{eligible} for Superfund. By 1984, U.S. EPA was ready to clean up the site, but in 1985 was denied access by OMC. Only after the Superfund amendments in 1986 did U.S. EPA gain ~~access~~ authority for access.

That year U.S. EPA and OMC ended the access litigation and negotiated this settlement.

Because this settlement differs from the previous proposal, U.S. EPA has prepared a document explaining the differences and is now seeking comments on it. Comments are also being sought on the proposed consent decree. The two comment periods run from October 12 to November 14.

Comments on both documents may be sent to:

John Perrecone, 5PA-14
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U.S. EPA Region 5
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Copies of the 1984 record of decision, the explanatory document, and the consent decree may be reviewed at:

Waukegan Public Library
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